



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

63-4279/ E.O.
Eyes only

May 22, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Additional U-2's for CIA

The Director of Central Intelligence has asked that the Defense Department make available two additional U-2 aircraft to be converted to J-75 engine configuration for use by the Central Intelligence Agency. These two additional U-2's for the Agency would increase its present total of 7 to 9 and would be used to meet its continuing commitments for covert flights around the world which now require two more U-2 aircraft. From my knowledge, gained as a member of the Special Group (5412), I am aware of, and agree with, the basis for the Agency's increased U-2 requirements.

I therefore ask that the Air Force make available, from SAC's U-2 force of 22 aircraft, the two additional U-2's required by the CIA. This transfer should be effected on a loan basis with the Air Force retaining title to the aircraft and accepting the financial consequences if either of the aircraft were lost in the course of CIA use. CIA as usual will accept responsibility for maintenance and operational costs of the two aircraft thus transferred.

As the CIA has an immediate need for these two aircraft the transfer should be effected as soon as possible, hopefully within the next two days.

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SECRET

Approved For Release 2000/08/21 : CIA-RDP33-02415A000100370008-1



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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Executive Registry

63-4279 F.O.

May 22, 1963

Dear John:

Enclosed is a copy of the instructions that I am issuing today to the Air Force in response to your recent request, confirmed by your note of yesterday, that the Defense Department make available to the CIA two additional U-2 aircraft to meet the Agency's increased requirements.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

LJ

Honorable John A. McCone

Director of Central Intelligence

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